

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/12780

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ H01M4/02, H01M4/62, H01M4/38, H01M4/04, H01M10/40

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ H01M4/02, H01M4/62, H01M4/38, H01M4/04, H01M10/40

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2004	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 8-195201 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 30 July, 1996 (30.07.96), Par. Nos. [0028] to [0031] (Family: none)	1
X	JP 2000-36323 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 02 February, 2000 (02.02.00), Par. No. [0072] (Family: none)	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
03 February, 2004 (03.02.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
17 February, 2004 (17.02.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

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Continuation of Box No. II of continuation of first sheet (1)

There must be "a special technical feature" so linking a group of inventions of claims as to form a single general inventive concept in order that the group of inventions may satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

The technical feature of claim 1 is disclosed in prior art documents, such as JP 8-195201 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 30 July, 1996 (30.07.96), the claims, examples 1, 2, and comparative example 1. The document teaches a negative electrode fabricated by using an aqueous dispersion medium of polyvinylidene fluoride. Since polyvinylidene fluoride cannot be dissolved into water, which is a dispersion medium, the polyvinylidene is present in a granular state in the negative electrode. Therefore the technical feature cannot be "a special technical feature".

The technical feature of claims 1 and 8 is disclosed in prior art documents, such as JP 2000-36323 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 02 February, 2000 (02.02.00), example 4, and Par. No. [0031]. The document teaches a negative electrode fabricated by using an aqueous dispersion medium of polyvinylidene fluoride and a cell using the negative electrode. Since polyvinylidene fluoride cannot be dissolved into water, which is a dispersion medium, the polyvinylidene is present in a granular state in the negative electrode. Therefore the technical feature cannot be "a special technical feature".

Therefore, there are no "special technical feature" in claims 1-24, and it appears that the international application do not comply with the requirement of unity of invention.

Consequently, the international application contains five groups of inventions: the invention of claim 1; the inventions of 2-7; the invention of claim 8; the inventions of claim 9-14; and the inventions of claims 15-24.